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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 18, Line 2 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Turning briefly to Figure 6, the structure of a master network management request message 170 is shown. The master network management request message 170 includes SNMP overhead fields 174 such as a version number and a community name and at least one protocol data unit 178. Each protocol data unit 178 comprises overhead fields 180 such as a request ID, an error status, and an error index. In addition, each protocol data unit 178 includes a plurality of variable values 176_44-with each value 176_76-being identified by a master object identifier 182 selected from within the master management information base 32.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 18, Line 10 of the specification with the following paragraph:

Because the master network management request message 170 is a request message (e.g. a message intended to solicit a reply message with the requested variable value 176_44-from the sub-manager 20), each variable value 176_44 in the request message 170 is a null value.